

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00433 232205Z

62

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 COME-00 L-02 /029 W
----- 014896

R 232122Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2834

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PN

SUBJ: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 282971

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PANAMA'S NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION CALLED EMBASSY AND ASKED ABOUT NEWS STORIES ON VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINT (VRS) ON MEAT EXPORTS. HE HAD RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER CATTLEMEN IN CENTRAL AMERICA REGARDING VRS. WHEN ASKED WHAT EFFECT VRS WOULD HAVE ON PANAMA, HE SAID GOP PRESENTLY SUBSIDIZING EXPORT BECAUSE OF LOW PRICES AND THAT PANAMANIAN CATTLEMEN EXPORTING HEIFERS TO REDUCE PRODUCTION. THUS IF VRS RESULTED IN HIGHER BEEF PRICES PANAMA WOULD ACTUALLY BENEFIT, INCLUDING THE GOP WHICH COULD REDUCE SUBSIDY PAYMENT, AND VRS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM SINCE EXPORT PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE INCREASING VERY MUCH ANYWAY.

2. ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT VICE-MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. THE VICE-MINISTER HAS SPENT MOST OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS AT THE MINISTRY IN SANTIAGO. APPOINTMENT STILL BEING SOUGHT AND ANY REACTION TO VRS WILL BE REPORTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. IN ANOTHER MEETING VICE-MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HAD LITTLE COMMENT WHEN HER VIEWS WERE SOUGHT.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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